

Building on Momentum: Summary of Parent Feedback on the Proposal for Eliot-Hine MS

For the past four months, DCPS has been developing a plan to strengthen Ward 6 Middle Schools. We solicited parent input in a variety of ways and received a lot of important feedback. Parents communicated with us in the following ways:

- Community Meeting on April 26th (approx. 30 attended)
- Community Meeting on May 19th (approx. 40 attended)
- Multiple small group meetings with parents, including PTA and parent organization meetings
- Email correspondence and phone calls
- Survey (172 responses online and in hard copy; asked all principals to send surveys home with students)

While we have provided many different opportunities for communication, level of input has varied across school communities. This document serves as a summary of all the feedback about Eliot-Hine received throughout this process.

The following table represents what we heard from parents as the most important factors for strengthening Eliot-Hine:

Strong and Comprehensive Academics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Challenging academic program for students at all levels▪ Strong special education program▪ Advanced course offerings, specifically the International Baccalaureate Program (IB)
Teachers and Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Strong leadership that prioritizes academic achievement and positive school culture▪ Teachers who demonstrate expertise and inspire students
Meaningful Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Inclusion of parents from all school communities▪ Involvement of parents in planning and implementing phases

Elements of the plan that parents liked most:

- International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB-MYP)
- Plans for enhancing academics, especially the differentiated math classes and the language offerings
- The attainment of high school credits from the IB-MYP

Parents' most common concerns:

- Implementation of the plan
- Alignment between elementary schools, Eliot-Hine MS, and Eastern High School
- Want more information on extra-curricular programs (such as band/orchestra and athletics)
- Would like more information on Arts/Music programs

Quotes from parents:

The following quotations are a sampling from the variety of comments and concerns we received:

- *"Continue to be a neighborhood school all kids could benefit. All cultures could benefit from all programs forth coming. Decisions made by all parties"*
- *"I would like to see the implementation plan with specific phases and dates to be able to monitor progress. THANK YOU!!!"*
- *"I need reassurance on how Eliot-Hine progresses, and at the same time I need to see clear and compelling progress at Eastern and other high schools"*
- *"All children should be welcomed"*
- *"I'm very interested in the IB program. Academic excellence is our family's priority and main criterion for deciding on a middle school for our kids"*
- *"I think we should all be included in plans and first and ending stages"*
- *"Need sports and extra-curricular activities - we are looking for a well-rounded program for our children in addition to just enhanced academics"*
- *"I'm excited about this! The community is ready to help! Thank you for hearing us"*